Senator Toni Harp Appropriations Committee Co-Chair Legislative Office Building, Room 2700 Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Senator Toni Harp,

My name is Teddy Gravel and I am a senior in the Wamogo agriscience program in Litchfield. I live in Morris and I attend this regional agriscience school choice program because it is enjoyable, and a great learning experience. I like learning about the environment and nature with hands on classes, along with many other agricultural activities. The agriculture program gives me opportunities to learn more about Farming and could help me later on in life since I am planning on getting an agricultural career. I have already started my own business through the Agriculture program here at Wamogo, which is a farm hand and giving my services to the local farms. I have been in FFA for Four years now and it has been a great and meaningful learning experience which will help me later on with being in the work force and getting a job.

"I am writing this letter to encourage you to <u>please urge the Appropriations</u>

Committee to pledge 9 million dollars of the school choice funding increases

proposed in the Governor's budget to the state's 19 regional (vo-ag) agriscience programs.

Our agriscience programs have been drastically underfunded for over 20 years as compared to the magnet schools, charter schools, vocational technical schools and the other school choice funding programs. (Please see attached flyer with details)

This will allow hundreds of more students like me to enroll in these successful programs so they will have the same positive experience I am having now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter."

Sincerely,

Teddy Gravel

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